

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 29 AUGUST 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that the Border Radio Club must announce the passing of Ralph Ward, Z22JD, on 9 August. Ralph was born on 6 June 1923 and grew up in Port Elizabeth where, after leaving school, he joined the Telegraph section of the Post Office. With his proficiency at Morse code and an interest in radio, Ralph became a radio amateur in the late 30's.

During WW2 he served with the Signals Company of the 6th Infantry Brigade. After the war he worked at ZSQ, the Shore to Ship PO Coastal Station until he moved to the then Rhodesia and joined the Federal Broadcasting Corporation, later the Rhodesian Broadcasting Corporation. His call sign at that stage was ZE2JD. Ralph later joined the SABC in King Williams Town where he worked in the Transmitter Department till retirement age. His call sign was ZS2EW. Still very active, he joined the Ciskei Airways radio section where he worked a number of years before returning to Harare on semi retirement. His final call sign was Z22JD. Ralph was an antenna specialist and the March 1968 issue of Radio ZS contained his article on the design of "A HOMEBREW TRI-BAND BEAM". Ralph leaves his son Clive and a grandson. We extend deepest sympathy to them, other relatives and friends.

(PAUSE)

In the news today.

SARL HF CW CONTEST

RESULTS OF THE 80 METRE QSO PARTY

RADIO TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION VIDEO

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office, which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

SARL HF CW CONTEST

The SARL HF CW Contest will be on the air this afternoon, Sunday 29 August. Please take note that the contest will start at 15:00 and end at 18:00 CAT. The operating time has been shortened because of the propagation conditions and the small number of participants. Activity will take place in the band segments 14,030 to 14,060 MHz, 7,010 to 7,035 MHz and 3,510 to 3,560 MHz. The exchange is RST and a serial number beginning with 001. The rules are available on the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za and were also sent out with HF happenings No 110 and no 111.

Logs can be submitted by e-mail to zs4bs@netactive.co.za or by post to Dennis Green, PO Box 12104, Brandhof, 9324. Good luck to all the participants.

RESULTS OF THE 80 METRE QSO PARTY

The Contest Committee has released the results of the 1st leg of the 2004 SARL 80 Metre QSO party held on Thursday 01 April 2004. The Committee only received five logs. The results are:

1st Jan Botha, ZS4JAN, 310 points; 2nd Pieter Jacobs, ZS6XT, 300 points; 3rd George Honiball, ZS6NE, 250 points; 4th Kurt Linsin, ZS5KL, 120 points; 5th Dennis Green, ZS4BS, 20 points.

The second leg of the 80 Metre QSO party will take place on Thursday evening 7 October 2004.

RADIO TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION VIDEO

Eddie, ZS6BNE, has a video of the introductory speech by Graham, ZS6GJH, and of some of the presentations; the video runs for about 2 hours. Anyone who wishes to have a copy on CD or Tape is welcome to contact Eddie, ZS6BNE. The cost is approximately R50,00 which covers making the copy and getting it to you.

Eddie says all hams in South Africa would be inspired by hearing Graham's words. Further he says it was great meeting ham friends in person and shaking their hands.

Also thanks to the SARL leadership - "Ladies and gentlemen, you deserve the support of all hams in South Africa."

WEST RAND BOOT SALE

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club will host a boot sale on Saturday 4th September at 12:00 SAST. The venue will be the WRARC clubhouse in Kroton Street, Weltevredenpark. Please note that due to popular demand the gates will open at 12:00. For more information, please contact Dave, ZR6AOC, on 083 449 8991. We are looking forward to seeing you and your friends there.

SARL PRESIDENT TO VISIT THE WESTERN CAPE

SARL President, Graham Hartlett ZS6GJH, has received an invitation from the Boland Amateur Radio Club and will be visiting the Western Cape on 18 September. The BARC will be holding a meeting on this day and it was decided to invite the SARL President to attend the meeting.

BARC extends an invitation to ALL amateurs who are members of any of the radio clubs in the Western Cape or SARL members to attend the meeting. The meeting starts at 11:00 at the Nature Reserve of the Boland Agriculture School near Paarl. Following the meeting there will be a chance for socialising around the barbeque fires.

SA AMATEUR TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE.

The SAATI annual general meeting is being planned for Saturday 25 September at the Alkantrant Association of Clubs' premises at the corner of Lynburn and Meiring Naude Roads. It will take the form of a bring and braai and will start at 12:00 noon. Please advise either Richard, ZR6CK, at 012-333-0612 or Ams, ZS6YV, at 012-664-3629 of your intention to attend. Discussion will centre on the route forward.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE RADIO AMATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARDS INVITED

The South African Amateur Radio Development Trust and Siemens Telecommunications invite nominations for the 2004 Siemens Radio Amateur of the Year Awards. There are two categories in which to nominate persons who have made a major contribution to Amateur Radio in South Africa. They are the Radio Amateur of the Year Award and the Young Radio Amateur of the Year Award. The first category is an open one while the second category is limited to nominees under 25 years of age. The winners will each receive a cash prize of R1000 and a certificate. Winners outside the Gauteng area will be provided with a return air ticket and accommodation.

The awards are recognising technical innovation and the promotion and development of Amateur Radio. Activities such as arranging a public event or a DXpedition qualify for nomination. However, the awards are not made for personal achievements such as winning a contest or a DXCC. To get nomination forms send an email to saardt@intekom.co.za. Nominations close on 30 September 2004. Nomination forms are available for download from the new SA Amateur Radio Development Trust Website at www.amateurradio.org.za.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Sun activity has been very quiet over the past week. Propagation conditions have not produced anything exciting, yet there has been a lot of activity on the bands. Sun activity is still on the decrease. It is expected to stabilise and start rising to a high point around next weekend.

The sun spot count was 47,1 on Friday compared to the 74,4 of last week, conditions have thus weakened. The prospect of corona openings on the surface of the sun is not very favourable, it is expected that a weak defined opening may occur between 28 and 29 August with an associated improvement in DX conditions. During the past week, conditions in the USA were very good. The 20 m band should be the best band to use with slight possibilities on the 15 m band.

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND FROM PORT SHEPSTONE LIGHTHOUSE

During the past weekend, a large group of Radio Amateurs and interested persons, from the Hibiscus Coast Amateur Radio Club, helped to make a great success of the event, The radio team consisted of Gawie, ZS5R (convenor), Garnett, ZS5ZT, Brian, ZS5AZH, Peter, ZS5SK, Wim, ZS5XRL, Brian, ZS5BOJ, Maurice, ZS5BCA, and Mervyn, ZS5QI, the Master Chef. Many of the other members, ladies and children, were present as well.

The following antennae were used: G5RV and a sloping dipole for 20 metres. The club also used the disused Radio beacon aluminium tower of 31 m high and were pleasantly surprised by its results. The weather was excellent on both days.

Eight local and one lighthouse in Namibia as well as 30 other local and 10 DX stations were contacted. Everybody expressed gratitude towards the National Ports Authority for the use of their facilities. The radio team were also grateful that the Master Chef, Mervyn, looked after the interests of the inner man.

CLUB NEWS

On Wednesday 21st July 2004, the Midlands Amateur Radio Club held its AGM. A tremendous turnout took place with 21 members and 5 visitors attending. A new Committee was elected, and, subsequently, on the 21st August, the various portfolios were allocated. The new Committee comprises the following:

Chairman: Wessel du Preez, ZS5BLY; Vice-Chairman and Clubhouse Manager: Bert Cornell, ZS5MQ; Secretary/Treasurer: Robin Seal, ZS5MRS; Repeaters/Packet/Training: Charles Carr, ZS5QR, Peter du Plessis, ZS5PJ, Willem Prinsloo, ZR5ZS; Emergency Communications/Hamnet: Johann Langeveld, ZS5JL; PR/Events/Membership: Willem Prinsloo, ZR5ZS; Database: Wessel du Preez, ZS5BLY; Hams Haywire News Editor: Robin Seal, ZS5MRS.

As from August, meetings of the Club have moved from the third Wednesday evening to the third Saturday morning of each month. Meetings start at 11:30. The first such event was a great success in terms of turnout.

The new Committee thanks the outgoing members for a job well done.

DIARY OF EVENTS AND REMINDERS

29 August: SARL President's Net and SARL HF CW Contest; 4 September: West Rand Amateur Club to hold a boot sale; 13 September: Closing date for HF CW Contest logs; 25 September: SAATI AGM; 30 September: Closing date for Radio Amateur of the Year awards; 2 October: Flea Market at the East Rand Radio Club; 7 October: Second leg of the SARL 80 Metre QSO Party; Pay SARL membership fees; Contribute to the fund initiated by the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust for the SARL's IARU membership; Send articles for Radio ZS to radiozs@sarl.org.za;

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX